

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 715

By Finney

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize H. Dean Stone for his meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding journalists and editors who, in their years at the helm of local newspapers, have chronicled the life of their respective communities and regions with uncommon insight, creativity, clarity, and commitment to fair and factual reporting; and

WHEREAS, H. Dean Stone is one such exemplary editor and journalist who has served with distinction at *The Daily Times* for 58 years; and

WHEREAS, born on September 23, 1924, in Maryville, Tennessee, Dean Stone graduated from Everett High School, where he developed his love of news reporting as a writer and sports editor of his high school newspaper, the *Blue and Gray*; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Dean Stone was activated from the Army Reserve as a soldier in the 363<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 91<sup>st</sup> Division; and

WHEREAS, entering combat on July 4, 1944, in Italy, Dean Stone served this great Nation during World War II, fighting to protect the freedoms and principles we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Mr. Stone enrolled at the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in journalism and a minor in history; and

WHEREAS, after working at *The Daily Times* for two summers during college, Dean Stone was hired as the Sunday Editor on February 1, 1949, and became Managing and Sports Editor later that same year; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Mr. Stone was named Chief Editor of *The Daily Times*, in which position he has earned the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and readers alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Mr. Stone published a book entitled *Snapshots of Blount County History: The Calderwood Story*, which is the first in a series of books about the history of Blount County; and

WHEREAS, a well-respected community leader, Dean Stone has donated his time and many talents to numerous professional and civic organizations; he currently serves as the Chairman of the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains Park Commission, a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission, and a member of the Boards of Directors of the Heritage Museum, the Blount County Museum, and the Little River Railroad Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone has also served as President of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, President of United Way of Blount County, President of the Townsend Chamber of Commerce, President of the Alcoa Kiwanis, President of the Maryville-Alcoa Jaycees, a fifty-year member of the New Providence Masonic Lodge, Chairman of the Chilhowee Baptist Association of Blount County, and twenty-year member of the Board of Directors of the Passion Play; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Dean Stone has twice served as President of the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors Association, and he is a life member of the Society of Professional Journalists (Sigma Delta Chi); he is a fifty-year member of the Professional Photographers of America and, in 1954, he founded Stonecraft, a company that produces and distributes scenic postal cards of the Great Smoky Mountains region; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Stone has received numerous civic awards and, in 2000, he was one of nineteen Tennesseans recognized for having a special vision for tourism in Tennessee; he was awarded the 2006 Dean Stone Tourism Excellence Award by the Smoky Mountains Convention and Visitors Bureau of Townsend, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dean Stone is highly regarded by the entire *The Daily Times* staff, who appreciate his mentoring, accessibility, encouragement, and sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, evincing his deep love and passion for Blount County and the State of Tennessee, Dean Stone has committed his life to preserving the history and beauty of East Tennessee in both print and photography; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Stone is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Maryville, which he has faithfully served for many years as a deacon and Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, Dean Stone epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Mr. H. Dean Stone for his many years of dedicated service as a journalist and editor of *The Daily Times*, commend him upon his public and civic service, recognize his commitment to preserving Tennessee's beauty and history, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.